

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

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INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 EUR-25 NIC-01 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT JA

SUBJ: SEIRANKAI HOLDS RALLY IN NAGOYA

REF: TOKYO 1617

1. LDP RIGHTIST GROUP SEIRANKAI STAGED SPEECH MEETING IN NAGOYA MAR 10 BEFORE AUDIENC VARIOUSLY ESTIMATED AT 7000 TO 10,000 PERSONS. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, WHICH INCIDENTALLY APPEARED IN DETAIL ONLY IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPERS, SEIRANKAI SPEAKERS AT RALLY SHARPLY CRITICIZED GOJ POLICIES AND DECLARED THAT PRIMIN TANAKA AS WELL AS FONMIN OHIRA

ND ITI MINISTER NAKASONE SHOULD RESIGN. ACCORDING TO ONE ACCOUNT, SEIRANKAI SECRETARY GENERAL SHINTARO ISHIHARA IN AD HOMINEM ATTACK ON PRIMIN SAID QTE TANAKA'S DEFORMED FACE IS REFLECTION OF DISORDERS BESETTING JAPANESE SOCIETY TODAY UNQTE AND BLASTED HIM FOR FAILING TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS POLICIES. ISHIHARA ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID ITI MINISTER NAKASONE SHOULD ASSUME REBPONSIBILITY FOR OIL CRISIS

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TROUBLES AND RESIGN, ADDING THAT QTE TIME MAY COME WHEN

CABINET MUST BE OVERTHROWN UNQTE. SPEECHES BY CHAIRMAN EIICHI NAKAO AND OTHER SEIRANKAI LEADERS FOCUSSED ON CRITICISM OF FONMIN OHIRA AND HIS QTE LAX UNQTE CONDUCT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WHICH HAVE LED TO SERIES OF ALLEGED QTE DIPLOMATIC BLUNDERS AND MISCALCULATIONS UNQTE BY FOREIGN OFFICE. OHIRA WAS PARTICULARLY CASTIGATED FOR HIS QTE SOFTNESS UNQTE TOWARD PEKING AS REFLECTED IN GOJ POSITION ON JAPAN-PRC CIVIL AIR AGREEMENT AND FOR HIS DECISION TO PERMIT PRG TEAM TO ENTER JAPAN AND PARTICIPATE IN ASIAN TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT NEXT MONTH. ONE SPEAKER CALLED FOR OHIRA'S RESIGNATION.

2. COMMENT: SEIRANKAI'S USE OF MASS RALLIES TO MOBILIZE SUPPORT AND PROPAGATE VIEWS REPRESENTS NEW TECHNIQUE WHICH REFLECTS POPULIST ELEMENT IN SEIRANKAI PHILOSOPHY AND TENDENCY FOR THIS ACTIVIST GROUP TO RESORT TO EMOTIONAL APPEALS. ONE IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION MAY BE FACT THAT ESTABLISHED JAPANESE PRESS REFUSES TO GIVE FULL COVERAGE TO SEIRANKAI ACTIVITIES AND VIEWS. THUS, RECENT NAGOYA RALLY WAS ALMOST COMPLETELY IGNORED BY MAJOR VERNACULAR PRESS WITH ONLY THREE PAPERS EVEN TAKING NOTE OF EVENT BRIEFLY IN INSIDE PAGES. EARLIER REGIONAL SEIRANAKAI RALLY HELD IN KAGOSHIMA ESCAPED NOTICE ENTIRELY. FACT THAT PRESS IS BOYCOTTING SEIRANKAI FOR ITS ALLEGED HOSTILE ATTITUDE TOWARD PRESS WAS FREELY ADMITTED BY JOURNALISTS CONTACTED BY EMBASSY ON MATTER. REACTION AMONG LDP CIRCLES IS ALSO HEAVILY PREJUDICED AGAINST SEIRANKAI WHICH IS WIDELY REGARDED AS GROUP OF PUBLICITY-SEEKING TROUBLEMAKERS. REACTION OF NAKASONE FACTION TO ATTACK OF ITS HEAD BY LEADER OF GROUP EMBRACING LARGE NUMBER OF NAKASONE FACTION MEMBERS, WAS TO DISMISS ISHIIH RA'S CRITICISM OF NAKASONE AS STATEMENTS OF QTE IRRESPONSIBLE MAVERICK UNQTE WHICH SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. SHOESMITH

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